

Yellow Jack Claims 4,000 Lives

Another major outbreak of Yellow Fever started this year with the docking of the *Emily B. Souder*, a steamer from the tropics. Four thousand four hundred and forty-six died and more than 27,000 contracted the disease. A quarantine on New Orleans was enforced in Shreveport, Memphis, even Galveston, as the city became known as *the wet grave*.

Mississippi and Texas officials had threatened to tear up railroad tracks and fire upon boats calling on their ports which had come from New Orleans.

In the Crescent City, carbolic acid and sulfur were burned to keep away the fever. Charity Hospital patients were given salt shakers filled with calomel and urged to take a pinch whenever they felt like it. Everyday as many as 47 people died as family carriages or dead wagons piled high with wooden coffins made their way to the cemeteries. This particular outbreak had a devastating impact on children in the New Orleans area.

Doctors disagreed about the right treatment for the fever. Some used violent remedies, too violent for children so young, who were besides exposed to the powerful emanations of carbolic acid. Many doctors found it to be injurious to them and resorted to other, less stringent, methods of treatment.

August 27 - Published Account of Impact on Area Physicians

"This is a trying time for our physicians. The cases of prevailing fever reported from day to day show how much more than their usual labor has devolved upon them. When called to a case of the fever, they are looked for every minute with intense anxiety. They know that their mere presence always allays this awful anxiety which is injurious to the sufferer. After going for hours and hours from house to house, the doctor returns to his office or residence to change his saturated clothes and get a few minutes' sleep, only to find some new and pressing demand for his immediate attention. But with all his toil, his broken rest, and his never-ceasing annoyances, he is expected to wear a placid countenance in every sick room, to speak in quiet tones, and to listen patiently to all that nurses, patients or friends may have to communicate.

The family doctor is the family's best and most welcome friend. As a rule, he deserves all this confidence, esteem and friendship. The exceptions are very uncommon, and among our Southern people almost unknown."

Hardee Map: New Orleans in 1878



Edgar Degas remains in city of Mother's birth to continue artistry



A recent oil on canvas painting: A Cotton Office in New Orleans; 1872-73
(See Degas on page 12)

Epidemic leads doctors to form local society

Dr. Charles Turpin named president

In April, 1878, thirteen doctors met to form a local organization to be affiliated with the Louisiana State Medical Society, formed earlier in the year. A number of physicians organizations had been formed before, but only one other had been successfully sustained. At the first meeting, the following objects were included in the preamble of the organization's constitution:



(1) The union in this society of all the reputable members of the regular medical profession, residing in the parish, and cooperating with the medical profession throughout the state in sustaining the Louisiana State Medical Society.

(2) The advancement of State Medicine, i.e. of Public Hygiene (or Preventive Medicine), of Medical Education, of Medical Jurisprudence, and of Public Institutions for the sick and infirmed.

(3) The cultivation of medical knowledge, and particularly of such parts thereof as may

(continued on page 2)



Local physician shown caring for a child during the recent Yellow Fever epidemic. This year's fever was particularly hard on children in New Orleans.

Doctors' society formed

be of special importance to this parish and State.

(4) The elevation of professional character and attainments, and the promotion of the welfare in all matters relating to medical science of the profession and of the public.

Other officers of the Orleans Parish Medical Society, as the new organization will be called, are Dr. E.S. Lewis (Vice President); Dr. J.P. Davidson (Vice President); Dr. A.B. Miles (Recording Secretary); Dr. D. Jamison (Corresponding Secretary). The remainder of the thirteen founding members include Dr. S.E. Chaille, Dr. S.M. Bemiss, Dr. T.G. Richardson, Dr. S. Logan, Dr. W. H. Watkins, Dr. E.D. Beach, Dr. F. Loeber, and Dr. J. Holt. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Richardson who was AMA president, later presiding over the AMA convention in Buffalo last year.

The first emergency meeting of the new Society was held on August 12, 1878. There was no secret about the crisis that drew them together in the medical department building of the University of Louisiana, at University Place and Common Street, exactly sixteen weeks after the Society was founded. It was the City's most recent yellow fever epidemic.

When the physicians gathered, they hoped that they could share information about their patients' cases and, through comparison, they could identify how the saffron specter could be vanquished.

Another responsibility of the new organization will be to evaluate the credentials of physicians wishing to be admitted to the Society to ensure that they are qualified doctors. The Society, as a chartered society of the Louisiana State Medical Society, will uphold the ethical principles of the American Medical Association and will expect its members to do the same.

HEADLINES OF 1878: News in New Orleans

The following headlines represent news of the year 1878 and represent a taste of life for New Orleanians:

"Segregation begins in the New Orleans School system."

"The New Orleans Mint reopens after being closed for several years"

"Isaac W. Patton serves as Mayor of New Orleans"

"The Marist Fathers' order enters the Archdiocese of New Orleans"

"The Times Democrat newspaper begins publication in New Orleans"

"New Orleans Premier of Bizet's 'Carmen' opens in French Opera House after several-year closure"

"Rex ball theme: 'The Gods Modernized'; James I. Day serves as Rex with Queen Jessie Hay"

"First French Chamber of Commerce outside of France opens in New Orleans"

"Democrats use violence and fraud to win black precincts in state elections"

"Comus will not parade next year; Money saved to be spent running soup kitchen for stricken citizens all through September."

"Inaugural parade held by the Phunny Phorty Phellows; follows Rex on Mardi Gras on February 25"

"State Senator Thomas C. Anderson is the first member of the State Returning Board gets two years hard labor for role in election fraud which helped Republicans gain a slight edge in elections."

"Two governors still preside over state; Nicholls (Republican) & Packard (Democrat)"

News in the U.S. this year: Outlook better for 1879



President Hayes

Under the presidency of Rutherford B. Hayes, business remained in a slump, continuing the after-effects of the Panic of 1873. During 1878 over 10,000 businesses failed.

Thomas Edison developed methods for the cheap production and transmission of electricity, portending widespread use to light cities and homes. This had an adverse effect on gas company stock shares on Wall Street. Edison continued his experiments to develop a practical filament for an incandescent light bulb. In the meantime, the inventor tried over 500 different substances.

White Soap, later renamed Ivory Soap, was introduced by Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati.

In Deadwood, in Dakota Territory, a smallpox epidemic swept the inhabitants. Among those rendering assistance was Martha Jane Canary, who became known as Calamity Jane.

Newspaperman Joseph Pulitzer purchased the *St. Louis Dispatch*, later to merge it with the *St. Louis Post* to create the *Post-Dispatch*, which would become the cornerstone in a publishing empire including the *New York World*.

In Petoskey, Michigan, the last known mass sighting of passenger pigeons occurred. In 1914 the species would become extinct when the last of the species died in the Cincinnati zoo.

On December 17, 1878, greenback legal tender notes achieved par with gold and silver. For the first time in American history, paper dollars, gold dollars, and silver dollars all had the same value.

At the Philadelphia Mint, production of nickel three-cent pieces, Shield nickels, 20-cent pieces, and trade dollars was limited to Proofs for collectors; no business strikes were made for circulation. Goloid, a "dream metal" patented by Dr. William Wheeler Hubbell on May 22, 1877, was employed to strike numerous pattern dollars beginning in 1878. This alloy contained silver and gold metal in the value ratio of 16 to 1, alloyed with 10% copper by weight (to add strength). Goloid coins were to be struck with weights and proportions on the metric system, hence the term *goloid metric dollar*.



The first Ivory Soap Lady

Orleans Parish Medical Society Presidents 1878-2003

- C.C. Turpin, M.D. (1878)
S.S. Herrick, M.D. (1878 - 1880)
J.P. Davidson, M.D.
(1881, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890¹)
C. J. Bickham, M.D. (1882)
Thomas S. Layton, M.D. (1883)
P.B. McCutcheon, M.D. (1884)
George B. Lawrason, M.D. (1885)
Felix Formento, M.D. (1886)
Charles Chassaingnac, M.D.
(1890 - 1891 - 1892²)
A.W. de Roaldes, M.D. (1893)
E.M. Dupaquier, M.D. (1894)
F.W. Parham, M.D. (1895)
Edmond Souchon, M.D. (1896)
John Callan, M.D. (1897-1898)
Isadore Dyer, M.D. (1899)
T.S. Dabney, M.D. (1900)
E.D. Martin, M.D. (1901)
H.B. Gessner, M.D. (1902)
Edwin J. Graner, M.D. (1903)
M.J. Magruder, M.D. (1904)
L.G. LeBeuf, M.D. (1905)
C. Jeff Miller, M.D. (1906)
John J. Archinard, M.D. (1907)
Amedee Granger, M.D. (1908)
W.H. Seemann, M.D. (1909)
B.A. Ledbetter, M.D. (1910-1911)
E.H. Walet, M.D. (1912)
Homer Dupuy, M.D. (1913)
C.N. Chavigny, M.D. (1914)
W.H. Knolle, M.D. (1915-1916)
Paul J. Gelpi, M.D. (1917-1918)
Hector E. Bernadas, M.D. (1919-1920)
S.M. Blackshear, M.D. (1921)
W.H. Block, M.D. (1922)
H.W. Kostmayer, M.D. (1923)
Chaille Jamison, M.D. (1924)
Urban Maes, M.D. (1925)
Maurice J. Gelpi, M.D. (1926)
A.E. Fossier, M.D. (1927)
J.B. Guthrie, M.D. (1928)
E.D. Fenner, M.D. (1929)
C. Grenes Cole, M.D. (1930)
Emmett Irwin, M.D. (1931)
J.A. Lanford, M.D. (1932)
E.L. King, M.D. (1933)
W.R. Metz, M.D. (1934)
Val H. Fuchs, M.D. (1935)
F.L. Fenno, M.D. (1936)
J.T. Nix, M.D. (1937)
Shirley Lyons, M.D. (1938)
Cassius L. Peacock, M.D. (1939)
Gilbert C. Anderson, M.D. (1940)
Edwin H. Lawson, M.D. (1941)
Edgar Burns, M.D. (1942)
Henry B. Alsobrook, M.D. (1943)
Edwin L. Zander, M.D. (1944)
Philip H. Jones, M.D. (1945)
Daniel H. Murphy, M.D. (1946)
H. Ashton Thomas, M.D. (1947)
Max M. Green, M.D. (1948)
J. Kelly Stone, M.D. (1949)
C. J. Brown, M.D. (1950)
Boni J. DeLaureal, M.D. (1951)
N.J. Tessitore, M.D. (1952)
Sam Hobson, M.D. (1953)
J.O. Weilbaecher, Jr., M.D. (1954)
Edgar Hull, M.D. (1955)
A.N. Houston, M.D. (1956)
George H. Hauser, M.D. (1957)
Charles B. Odom, M.D. (1958)
Hugh T. Beacham, M.D. (1959)
Oscar Blitz, M.D. (1960)
J. Theo Brierre, M.D. (1961)
John F. Oakley, M.D. (1962)
John J. Archinard, M.D. (1963)
John L. Kron, M.D. (1964)
W. Charles Miller, M.D. (1965)
Louis A. Monte, M.D. (1966)
J. Morgan Lyons, M.D. (1967)
W.E. Kittredge, M.D. (1968)
L. Sidney Charbonnet, Jr., M.D. (1969)
William P. Bradburn, III, M.D. (1970)
C. F. Bellone, M.D. (1971)
Eugene H. Countiss, M.D. (1972³)
Patrick H. Hanley, M.D. (1973)
Anthony Failla, M.D. (1974)
Claude C. Craighead, M.D. (1975⁴)
Dennis H. Groome, Jr., M.D. (1976⁵)
Charles V. Menendez, M.D. (1976⁶)
Adolph A. Flores, Jr., M.D. (1977)
Paul F. Naccari, Jr., M.D. (1978⁷)
William D. Davis, Jr., M.D. (1979)
Lawrence D. Kavanagh, M.D. (1980)
Richard A. Faust, M.D. (1981)
Charles V. Menendez, M.D. (1982)
Robert R. Burch, M.D. (1983)
William S. Renaudin, M.D. (1984)
William J. Perret, M.D. (1985)
George S. Ellis, M.D. (1986)
Jay M. Shames, M.D. (1987)
Raymond F. Kitziger, M.D. (1988)
Lynn E. Hickman, M.D. (1989)
Russell C. Klein, M.D. (1990)
W. Brooks Emory, M.D. (1991)
Dudley M. Stewart, Jr., M.D. (1992)
Susan M. Weyer, M.D. (1993)
Rene A. Louapre, III, M.D. (1994)
Paul B. Lansing, M.D. (1995)
Vincent A. Culotta, Jr., M.D. (1996)
Joseph M. Brenner, M.D. (1997)
Floyd A. Buras, Jr., M.D. (1998)
Eduardo E. Rodriguez, M.D. (1999)
Charles V. Sanders, Jr., M.D. (2000)
James B. Aiken, M.D. (2001)
Edward F. Foulks, M.D. (2002)
Roger D. Smith, M.D. (2003)

1. Died in office.

2. Also filled unexpired term of Dr. Davidson.

3. Died in office

4. Also filled unexpired term of Dr. Countiss in 1972.

5. Died in office.

6. Filled unexpired term of Dr. Groome

7. Also served briefly as president upon death of Dr. Groome in 1976

A Selection of Orleans Parish Medical Society "Firsts"

April 22, 1878 - Organizational meeting of OPMS. Dr. Richardson, AMA president and OPMS member, called the meeting to order. Dr. Donald Palmisano will be the second OPMS member to serve in that capacity in 2003.

August 12, 1878 - First emergency meeting to discuss Yellow Fever epidemic.

1879 - Dr. Fredrick Loeber, first physician in New Orleans to have a telephone.

1882 - First member outside of New Orleans accepted into membership (Dr. D.T. Smith of Gretna)

1889 - Library, run originally by the Medical College of Tulane University, taken over by OPMS which agreed to engage a librarian.

May 18, 1894 - First OPMS exclusive head quarters on University Place, half a block from Canal Street (2 rooms & a wide hall for \$20 a month)

April 23, 1904 - Society purchases first domicile at Elk Place and Gasquet Street for \$5,000. In four years, the Society outgrew its headquarters. The second domicile at 1800 Canal Street, was not purchased until 1979 which was sold in 1996.

March 13, 1913 - Dr. Elizabeth Bass, 1st woman to be elected to active membership.

1914 - First Bubonic Plague death in New Orleans prompts OPMS members to get together for emergency meeting.

1914 - Dr. Urban Maes, First doctor ever to take a field station & surgical team to the the battle lines (during WWI) and perform surgery on the spot, thus lowering the death rate among the wounded.

1935 - Mimeographed *Bulletin of the Orleans Parish Medical Society* makes its debut.

April 14, 1940 - First Executive Secretary, Alfred J. Kuhlmann, Sr., hired by the Society. Served 40 years.

1963 - First undertaking of the Society to coordinate massive immunization effort for polio. Twelve tons of sugar cubes were used. Over 555,000 people immunized.

October 13, 1964 - Dr. Charles Frazer is the first coordinator for the First-in-the-nation house-call project; which was a 24-hour house-call service conducted by OPMS until 1973.

May 11, 1965 - Word "White" eliminated from OPMS by-laws; Dr. R.H. Tipton was one of four African-Americans accepted into membership in June.

1975 - Tel-Med established as first health information service in city accessed by telephone.

1993 - Dr. Susan Weyer elected first female president of OPMS.

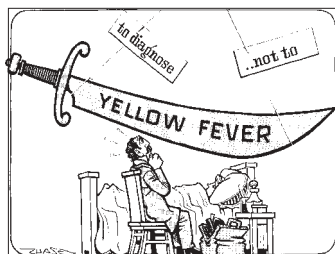
**ORLEANS PARISH MEDICAL SOCIETY'S 125TH BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION PLANNING COMMITTEE**

ROGER D. SMITH, M.D. & EDWARD F. FOULKS, M.D. - CO-CHAIRS

James B. Aiken, M.D.
Patrick C. Breaux, M.D.
Floyd A. Buras, Jr., M.D.
Isidore Cohn, Jr., M.D.
Gustavo Colon, M.D.
Susan D'Antoni
William Daly, Jr., M.D.
Mrs. Joseph (Erva) Guenther
Leah Haldeman
Lynn Hickman, M.D.
Mrs. Lynn (Joan) Hickman
Emil Koretzky, M.D.

Cary J. Kuhlmann
Mrs. Gerald (Barbara) LaNasa
Paul Lansing, M.D.
James Moises, M.D.
Mrs. Paul (Jerleen) Naccari
Paul Naccari, Jr., M.D.
Cherie Niles, M.D.
Thomas Nolan, M.D.
Janna Pecquet
E. Quinn Peeper, M.D.
William Renaudin, M.D.
Alan Robson, M.D.

Eduardo Rodriguez, M.D.
Joseph Sabatier, M.D.
Mrs. Joseph (Joyce) Sabatier
Charles Sanders, Jr., M.D.
Mrs. Terry (Merle) Segura
Jay Shames, M.D.
Mrs. Roger (Georgie) Smith
Wallace Tomlinson, M.D.
Louis Trachtman, M.D.
Larry Weiss, M.D.
Susan Weyer, M.D.
John Yarborough, Jr., M.D.



1878 & 2003: What's "In" Then & Now

Women's Fashion

Then: Bustles
Now: Miniskirts

Men's Formal Fashion

Then: White Tie
Now: Black Tie

U. S. President

Then: Rutherford B. Hayes
Now: George W. Bush

Communication

Then: Letters & Meetings
Now: Email & Cell phones

Educational Venue

Then: Meetings
Now: Online tutorials

Transportation

Then: Horse & Buggy and Streetcars
Now: SUVs and Vespas

New Orleans' Favorite Cocktail

Then: Absinthe Sazerac
Now: Sazerac (hold the absinthe)

Louisiana Governor

Then: Two governors - one from each party
(Nicholls - Republican & Packard - Democrat)
Now: Governor Mike Foster

New Orleans Mayor

Then: Isaac Patton
Now: C. Ray Nagin

Fever Treatment

Then: Tonics and Bleedings
Now: Antibiotics

Long-Distance Travel

Then: Ships and Trains
Now: Planes

Public Health Enemy

Then: Yellow Fever
Now: AIDS, SARS, West Nile, Bioterrorism

Long Distance Communication

Then: Carrier Pigeons
Now: FedEx, UPS and USPS

Preferred Music

Then: Classical and spirituals
Now: Rap, Hip-Hop, and "Oldies" (1960s)

Recent Military Conflict

Then: Civil War
Now: Iraqi War

Primary New Orleans Industry

Then: Import/Export
Now: Tourism

Medical Economics

Then: Self-pay and use of the Barter system
(livestock and vegetables in exchange for care)
Now: Predominantly third-party insurance and government

Prominent Artist

Then: Degas, Monet and Manet
Now: Rodrigue

Adult Entertainment Venue

Then: Storyville
Now: Canal Street Brothel

Scandal of the Day

Then: State Returning Board election fraud
Now: City Hall Corruption; Insurance
Commissioner jailed; former Gov. Edwards jailed
in federal prison

2003

Council of Governors

Roger D. Smith, M.D., *Chair*
James B. Aiken, M.D.
David Borne, M.D.
Patrick Breaux, M.D.
Floyd Buras, Jr., M.D.
Vincent A. Culotta, Jr., M.D.
William Daly, Jr., M.D.
David diLoreto, M.D.
Ricardo Feby, M.D.
Edward Foulks, M.D.
Maureen Hecker-Rodriguez, M.D.
Thomas Hauth, M.D.
Steven Jones, M.D.
Kevin Jordan, M.D.
Russell Klein, M.D.
Emil Koretzky, M.D.
Janis Letourneau, M.D.
Harvey Malone, M.D.
James Moises, M.D.
Cherie Niles, M.D.
Thomas Nolan, M.D.
Roberto Quintal, M.D.
Alan Robson, M.D.
Eduardo Rodriguez, M.D.
Donald Schexnayder, M.D.
Jay Shames, M.D.
Sandra Spedale, M.D.
Dudley Stewart, Jr., M.D.
Louis Trachtman, M.D.
Larry Weiss, M.D., J.D.
Michelle Zembo, M.D.